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REMARKS

To further the prosecution of this Application, the Applicants submit the following remarks and have amended claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-19 are pending in this Application. Claims 1, 11, 16, and 19 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims.

Claim Amendments

On March 15, 2006, the U.S. Patent Office mailed a Notice of Allowance with respect to the present application. On April 12, 2006, Examiner Ishwarbhai Patel contacted the Applicants' Representative, Jeffrey J. Duquette, regarding certain language in the allowed claims. In particular, Examiner Patel indicated that certain claim language should be deleted.

As requested by the Patent Office, independent claims 1, 11, 16, and 19 have been amended to remove the language "relative to a center of that pad" from the claims. Each claim now recites "each lobe portion defines a distally disposed edge which is convex" and "(ii) each central portion define central portion edges which are concave." While the Applicants do not believe the amendment to be necessary, the amendment was made solely to clarify the nature of the invention to expedite the prosecution of the application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application. The amendment does not add new matter to the application and the Applicants have not raised new issues which would require further searching and consideration.

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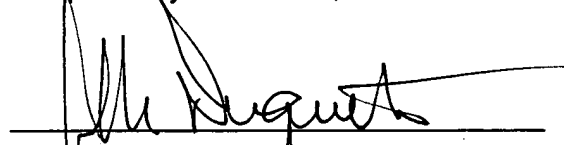
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

The Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey J. Duquette', is written over a horizontal line.

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